

PHOTO

(courtesy x)

**Clarence Harold Wilkinson** (1864-1922) was born 5 September 1864 to Alexander and Jane Wilkinson in West Maitland, NSW, where he attended the public school and sat junior examinations in 1880. In August 1881 Clarence sought employment with the City of Sydney as an articled pupil. By December 1881 the City's Finance Committee recommended the appointment of Wilkinson in the City Architect's Department, noting he had completed three months' trial, with an annotation of commendation by T.H. Sapsford, the City Architect. By December 1884, having completed his articles, Wilkinson was placed on the staff as a draftsman with a salary of £125 p.a.. Clarence was a first prize winner in architecture at Sydney Technical College in recognition of studies during 1884. Wilkinson occupied some of his spare time as a member of the volunteer services, acting as a second lieutenant by 1884, and promoted to first lieutenant in 1888.

By 1888 Wilkinson was the assistant city architect and building surveyor to the Municipality of Sydney, but he resigned in mid-1889. Clarence advertised with his brother Lancelot Alexander Wilkinson in the *Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser* from October 1899 as 'Wilkinson & Wilkinson, Architects and Licensed Surveyors', having offices in Sydney, Newcastle and West Maitland. With poor economic conditions in late 1890, Clarence abandoned his efforts on the east coast and soon travelled to the other side of Australia, seeking greater opportunities.

Wilkinson joined the Western Australian Public Works Department (PWD) in Perth, working on a number of railway buildings. He resigned from the PWD at the end of June 1892, and after a few years as a sole practitioner, entered into partnership with E.H. Dean Smith for 1895-1900. Smith was the successful competitor in a competition for additions to the Presbyterian Church, Perth in 1895, which was carried out under the name of the new firm, Wilkinson & Smith. Dean Smith acted as the best man when Wilkinson married Caroline Annie Sillifant at St George's Cathedral, Perth on 12 June 1895. The Wilkinsons subsequently had children Joan in 1897, and John Henry Alexander in 1901.

At a meeting of May 1896 that formalised the West Australian Institute of Architects (WAIA), Wilkinson was elected the first secretary of the body.

Wilkinson & Smith were an extremely successful practice, designing many important buildings in Perth, Fremantle, and the surrounding suburbs. Following Smith's design of Edward Keane's *Cappoquin* (later RFBYC) in 1892, and Wilkinson's design for Neil McNeil's *The Cliffe* in late 1894, the partnership were responsible for many substantial residences in the burgeoning new suburb of Peppermint Grove. Wilkinson & Smith designed the landmark residences *Chanonry* at Forrest Street, for Edmund Shelley Barker in 1895; *Hawthornden* at 50 Irvine Street, for John Drummond in 1897; and *Minnawarra* at 57 Leake Street, for Walter James in 1899.

It appears that for a short time during a very busy period, Wilkinson & Smith took on a third partner. In September 1899 *The West Australian* advised the public of the dissolution of a Wilkinson & Smith partnership with George Anketell Wright Wilson - carrying on business as architects at Fremantle. Wilkinson was chairman of the 'WA Institute for the Deaf and Dumb' as it was known at the time, and with Smith in 1899-1900 was responsible for the first portion of the WA Institute for Deaf Education at Curtin Avenue, Cottesloe.

Wilkinson & Smith dissolved their partnership on 30 June 1900. The two architects again practised on their own account, and Wilkinson is listed in *Wises* directories as an architect in Perth up until 1904, with tender notices published till mid-1906. In April 1906 Dean Smith passed away, and in combination with other events, Smith's early death may have shaken former partner Wilkinson.

WA had suffered a downturn in the building industry around 1905. It was reported that at Perth city in 1901-02 the value of new building permits was £250,000; in 1902-03, £321,000; 1903-04, £357,000; 1904-05 £315,000; 1905-06, £214,000; 1906-07, £174,000; 1907-08, £75,000; and a major reversal of fortune did not really occur until 1910. It is not clear why the Wilkinson family left WA, but Clarence may have needed to seek 'greener pastures', and he died in his home State of NSW on 3 October 1922, aged 58. Caroline Wilkinson died in Sydney during February 1927, and was noted as the 'loving mother of Joan and John of 35 Fairweather Street, Bellevue Hill, Sydney'.

## References:

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- 'News and Notes', *The West Australian*, 23 January 1892, p.4 (Wilkinson's 'address' to Pitcher).
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 9 March 1894, p.8 (Wilkinson's design of bungalow residence & stables Peppermint Grove for Neil McNeil).
- 'Sir Henry Parkes', *The West Australian*, 13 March 1894, p.5 (Wilkinson's 'address' to Parkes).
- 'News and Notes', *The West Australian*, 2 May 1894, p.4 (Bank of Australasia fit-out Perth).
- 'News and Notes', *The West Australian*, 12 Jul 1894, p.4 (Bank of Australasia fit-out Fremantle).
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 21 January 1895, p.8 (residence Peppermint Grove ES Barker).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 27 March 1895, p.8 (residence Peppermint Grove W. De Lacey Bacon, residence Mount Street Alfred G. Hassell).
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 13 July 1895, p.8 (residence Peppermint Grove GE Law).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 15 January 1896, p.7 (Residence, Cannington; 2 houses Ellen Street for H.W. Sholl MLA; Residence, Claremont; billiard room and additions for Neil McNeil; Lockeridge [Lockridge] Hotel, West Guildford).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 13 February 1896, p.7 (large block of offices Barrack Street Perth, joint architects with George R. Johnson).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 13 March 1896, p.8 (Manager's residence Stirling St for the Perth Ice Co., additions to residence Peppermint Grove for Horace Sholl).
- 'Bank of Australasia - Proposed New Premises', *The West Australian*, 29 July 1896, p.6.
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 12 September 1896, p.2 (3 stone residences Forrest Street Peppermint Grove; 2-storey weatherboard house Leake Street Peppermint Grove).
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'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 19 June 1897, p.3 (Agricultural Hall, Gooseberry Hill; school at Mount Barker; block of offices Barrack Street for Neil McNeil).

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'The Proposed Queen's Hall', *Western Mail*, 3 September 1897, p14.

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 11 September 1897, p.3, (2 storey villa Irvine St for Drummond)

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'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 8 November 1897, p.7 (Hotel Cliff St Fremantle, National Bank of Australasia St George's Tce, Perth).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 22 August 1898, p.1 (2 storey house cnr Adelaide Tce and Lord St [Victoria Avenue] Perth for George Parker; 1st part of Institute for Blind Maylands; WA Trustees Offices Barrack St Perth).

'Perth Girls Orphanage', *The West Australian*, 29 August 1898, p.7 (laying of foundation stone).

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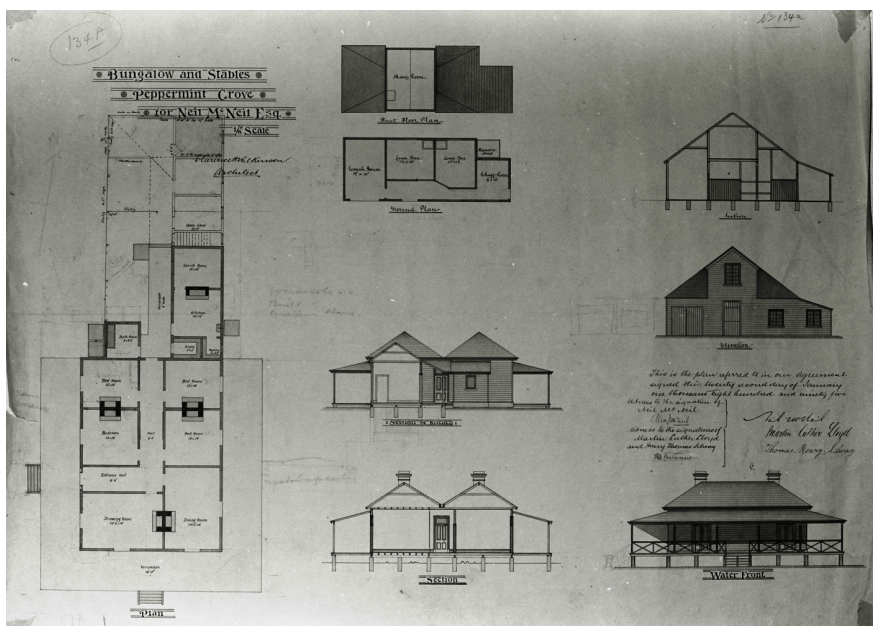
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**WILKINSON & WILKINSON,**  
 Architects and Licensed Surveyors.

<p><b>Clarence E. Wilkinson,</b>          ARCHITECT,          Late Assistant City          Architect, Sydney.</p>	<p><b>L. A. Wilkinson,</b>          LICENSED SURVEYOR          Real Property          Act.</p>
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Advertisement of Wilkinson & Wilkinson (*Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser*, October 1899 -September 1890, generally around p.7).



Late 1894 design for the original portions of *The Cliffe* at McNeil Street Peppermint Grove (Muhling Collection).



East elevation of *The Cliffe* at McNeil Street, Peppermint Grove, post-1896, as billiard room at right and other additions have been made (Battye 5395B).





1896-97 weatherboard residence, 37 Leake Street, Peppermint Grove (Pascoe p.52)



John Drummond's *Hawthornden* of 1897 at 50 Irvine Street, Peppermint Grove (John Taylor 2008)



1899-1900 *Minnawarra* for Walter James MLA (house later enlarged by Hobbs, Smith & Forbes) at 57 Leake Street, Peppermint Grove (John Taylor 2008)



1899 onward: Perth Girls' Orphanage (fmr), 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth (Google 2012)



1899-1900 first portions of WA Institute for the Deaf and Dumb (now WA Institute for Deaf Education), Curtin Avenue, Cottesloe (Google 2012)



1899 Literary Institute (fmr), 13 South Terrace, Fremantle by Wilkinson Smith & Wilson (Google 2012)





c.1896 sketch of Lockeridge [Lockridge] Hotel, 1 River Street, Bassendean (SLWA 230499PD)



1896 Lockridge Hotel (fmr), 1 River Street Bassendean (Google 2012)